



PARENTING IN THE CONTEXT OF COERCIVE CONTROL

(Charts and Instructions)

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A WORD ABOUT THE PARENTING CHARTS

Context and Applicability of the Charts

This packet contains three charts designed to help you analyze the nature, dynamics and implications of parenting *in the context of coercive controlling abuse*. Each chart has a specific purpose and is intended to facilitate a specific analysis.

The first chart, which is captioned *Parenting by Coercive Controlling Abusers* (Chart 1 of 3), is meant to assess the parenting capacities of coercive controlling abusers. It is only to be used after you have determined that one of the parties has engaged in coercively controlling abuse – and it is only to be used to consider the parenting behaviors and decisions *of the coercively controlling parent*. It is not meant to assess the victim parent.

The second chart, which is captioned *Impact of Coercive Control on Victim's Parenting* (Chart 2 of 3), is meant to assess the effects of the parenting behaviors and decisions of the coercively controlling parent *on the victim's parenting*. It is not intended to be used to analyze the coercive controlling abuser's parenting. It is also not intended to assess the impact of coercive control on *other aspects of the victim's life* beyond parenting.

The third chart, which is captioned *Impact of Coercive Control on Child* (Chart 3 of 3), is meant to assess the effects of the parenting behaviors and decisions of the coercively controlling parent *on the child*.

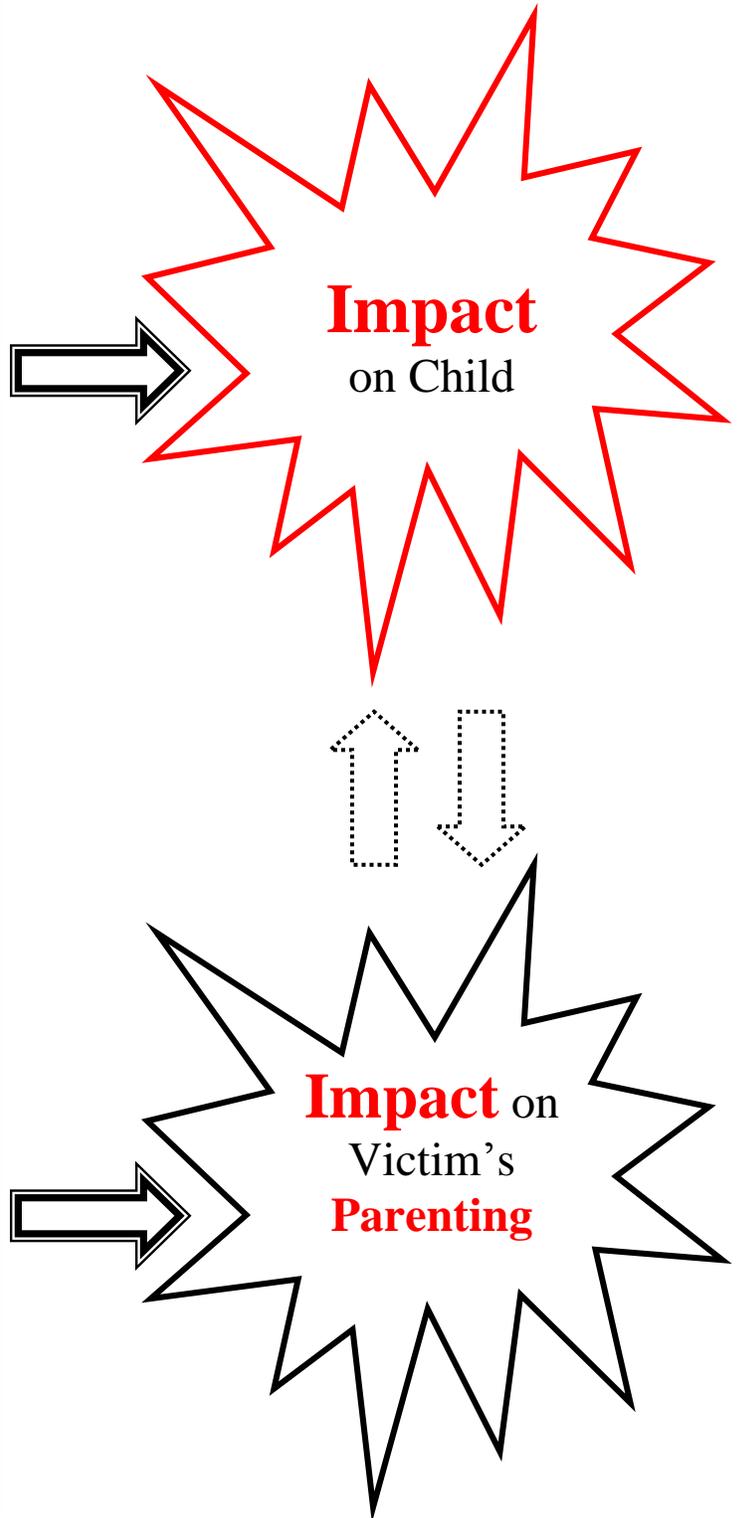
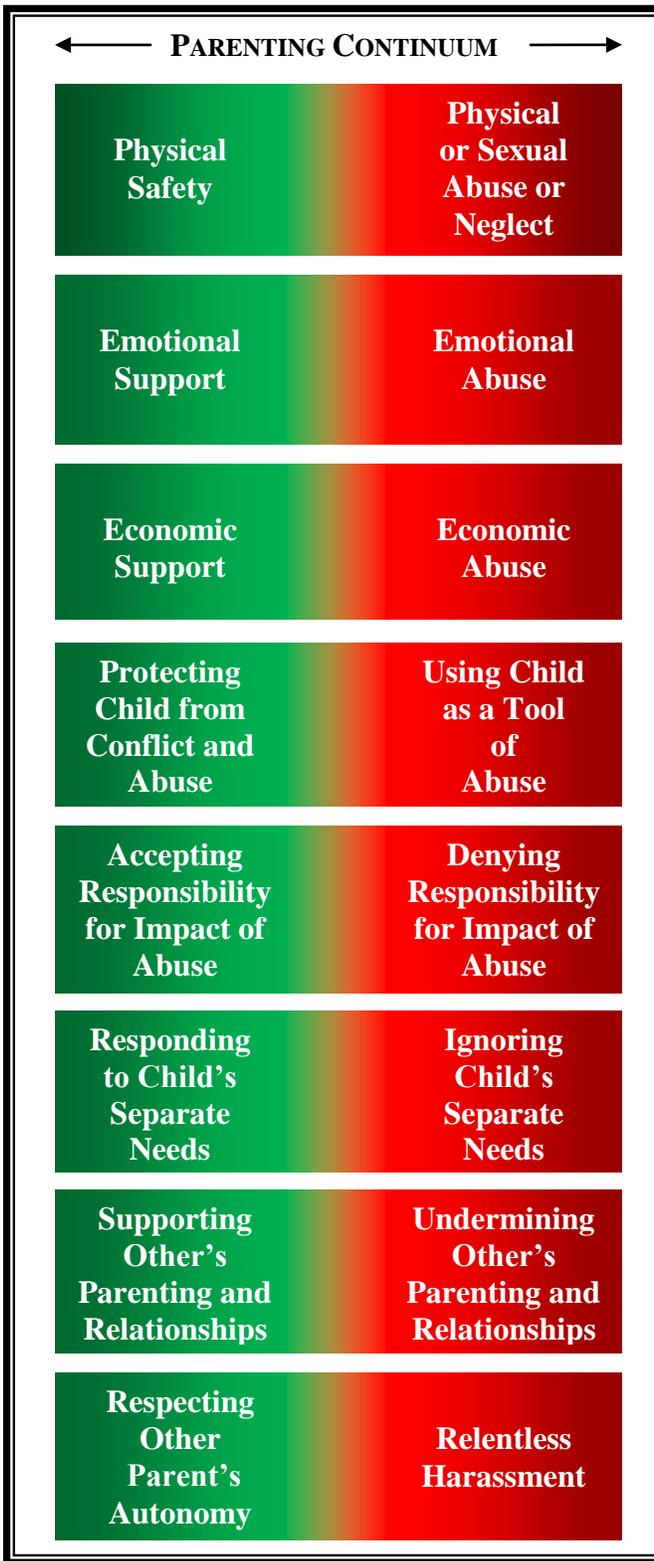
Be sure to select and apply the appropriate chart for the specific analysis you are undertaking. Misapplication of these charts can distort your analysis and lead to harmful outcomes for battered parents and their children.

Family Court-Specific Design

These charts were designed specifically for family court practitioners (lawyers, judges, custody evaluators, guardians ad litem, CASAs, mediators, parenting coordinators, parent educators, etc.) *for use in family court settings*. They were not developed for use in other settings, such as child protection or criminal justice proceedings.

Be sure to exercise discretion and caution in applying these charts to non-family court settings.

PARENTING BY COERCIVE CONTROLLING ABUSERS
(Chart 1 of 3)



Physical or Sexual Abuse or Neglect of Child: Decisions and behaviors that directly harm the child's physical safety, security and well-being, including but not limited to:

- Hitting, punching, slapping, pushing child
- Using excessive/coercive discipline
- Refusing to tolerate age-appropriate behavior
- Violating child labor laws (forced labor)
- Denying food, clothing, necessary medical care
- Forcing other parent to participate in child abuse
- Abducting or threatening to abduct child
- Forcing child into criminal activity
- Promoting truancy
- Having inappropriate sexual contact
- Sexually exploiting/grooming child
- Exposing child to pornography
- Using child in pornography
- Forcing child to have sex with others
- Violating child's physical privacy
- Abandoning child
- Exposing child to drugs
- Willfully violating health or housing codes

Emotional Abuse of Child: Wide-ranging decisions or behaviors that directly or indirectly harm the child's emotional safety, security, development, and/or well-being, including but not limited to:

- Denigrating child's feelings
- Calling child names
- Making child feel stupid or inadequate
- Demanding demonstrations of affection/loyalty
- Isolating child from friends or family
- Embarrassing, humiliating or shaming child
- Promoting gender bias or disrespect of women
- Refusing to meet child's basic emotional needs
- Creating a chaotic or unpredictable home life
- Missing visits or appointments
- Exposing child to violence
- Modeling bad behavior
- Harming or threatening to harm animals or pets
- Breaking promises
- Violating child's boundaries
- Denying support or affection to child
- Interfering with school or homework
- Micro-managing or monitoring child
- Disrupting child's structure or routines
- Destroying child's toys or personal items
- Mocking child's interests or ambitions
- Fluctuating involvement with child
- Threatening to harm or kill parent or child
- Saying one thing and doing another
- Exposing child to aftermath of violence
- Morally corrupting child
- Inducing fear or terror
- Threatening suicide

Economic Abuse: Decisions to or behaviors that unnecessarily harm the child's economic stability or security, including but not limited to:

- Refusing to provide available financial support
- Interfering with other parent's work
- Withholding important financial information
- Trading money or support for time with child
- Shutting off utilities
- Disabling vehicles
- Stealing property from child or other parent
- Denying other parent access to resources
- Depleting bank accounts
- Destroying other parent's credit
- Preventing other parent's access to credit
- Refusing to pay insurance premiums
- Cancelling insurance
- Selling other parent's or child's property

Using Child as a Tool of Abuse: Decisions to or behaviors that employ the child to manipulate, control, threaten or harm the other parent, including but not limited to:

- Drawing child into abuse
- Using child to monitor other parent
- Pitting child against other parent
- Separating children from their siblings
- Encouraging child to disrespect other parent
- Rewarding child for rejecting other parent
- Threatening to harm child
- Threatening to take child from other parent
- Using child to bargain with other parent
- Dividing child's loyalties
- Using child to coerce other parent
- Hurting child in order to hurt other parent
- Using custody to harass other parent
- Disrupting established visitation schedule
- Using visitation to access other parent
- Threatening to seek custody to hurt parent
- Degrading other parent to child
- Neglecting child on visits

Denying Impact of Abuse on Child: Decisions or behaviors that fail to acknowledge and repair the damage resulting from one's own abuse, including but not limited to:

- Failing to acknowledge damage from abuse
- Interfering with other parent's treatment efforts
- Refusing to seek counseling for abuse
- Interfering with other parent's care of child
- Interfering with child's counseling/healthcare
- Justifying abuse
- Being intolerant of criticism for abuse
- Demanding respect in the face of abuse
- Failing to acknowledge child's needs
- Failing to respond to child's needs
- Disregarding child's needs
- Refusing to apologize for abuse
- Forcing unwanted engagement with child
- Blaming others for abuse

Undermining the Other's Parenting or Relationship with Child: Decisions to or behaviors that either: (1) interfere with the other parent's ability to parent or exercise parental authority; or (2) disrupt or harm the child's relationship with the other parent, including but not limited to:

- Refusing to enforce established rules
- Violating established parenting agreements
- Withholding information concerning the child
- Disrupting child's schedule or routine
- Sharing too much information with child
- Disrespecting other parent's new partner
- Ignoring child's allergies or illnesses
- Refusing to agree to rules or structure
- Making false allegations to authorities
- Under- or over-medicating child
- Using new partner to replace other parent
- Disparaging other parent in front of child
- Criticizing other parent
- Manufacturing tensions

Ignoring Child's Separate Needs: Beliefs that the child's interests, needs and perceptions are either: (1) indistinguishable from the other parent's interests, needs and perceptions; or (2) attributable to the other parent, including but not limited to:

- Elevating one's own needs above the child's needs
- Believing one's own needs and child's need are identical
- Believing that oneself and one's child think and feel the same way
- Believing that one knows exclusively what is best for the child
- Believing that one's own pain is mirrored in the child
- Obsessive attachment to the child
- Seeing no value in the child's contact with the other parent, absent sufficient cause
- Believing that child's mind is being poisoned by the other parent
- Believing that the child is mirroring the other parent
- Believing that the other parent and the child are conspiring

Relentless Harassment: Decisions to or behaviors that disrupt the everyday life of, and create persistent instability, insecurity or unpredictability for the child and/or the other parent, *usually under the guise of some seemingly legitimate principle (like safety, equality, fairness, duty, or parental concern)*, including but not limited to:

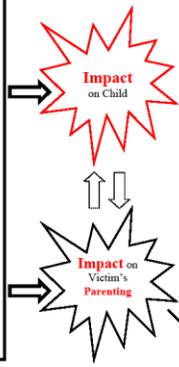
- Constantly disrupting the child's schedule
- Constantly disrupting the child's routines
- Engaging in harassing litigation
- Making false reports to authorities
- Fluctuating parental involvement
- Monitoring other parent's whereabouts
- Making unreasonable demands on time
- Making oneself look good in harmful ways
- Hacking into other parent's computer
- Cutting off phone service
- Constantly raising "technical arguments"
- Missing visits and appointments
- Interfering with the other parent's work
- Interfering with school, sleep or social life
- Interfering with health care
- Disparaging other parent to family/friends
- Constantly changing rules or expectations
- Stalking other parent or child
- Cancelling or rescheduling appointments
- Disrupting utilities
- Disrupting other parent's transportation
- Setting off home alarm system
- Showing up unannounced
- Sabotaging other parent at every turn

IMPACT OF COERCIVE CONTROL ON **VICTIM'S PARENTING** (Chart 2 of 3)

PARENTING BY COERCIVE CONTROLLING ABUSERS
(Chart 2 of 3)

| PARENTING CONTINUUM | |
|--|---|
| Physical Safety | Physical or Sexual Abuse or Neglect |
| Emotional Support | Emotional Abuse |
| Economic Support | Economic Abuse |
| Protecting Child from Conflict and Abuse | Using Child as a Tool of Abuse |
| Accepting Responsibility for Impact of Abuse | Denying Responsibility for Impact of Abuse |
| Responding to Child's Separate Needs | Ignoring Child's Separate Needs |
| Supporting Other's Parenting and Relationships | Undermining Other's Parenting and Relationships |
| Respecting Other's Parent's Autonomy | Retaliating/ Harassment |

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HEIGHTENED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD

- Monitoring abuser's moods/behaviors
- Appeasing abuser
- Regulating child's actions to avoid abuse
- Shielding child from abuse
- Intervening when child is being abused
- Directly challenging/confronting abuser
- Leaving with the child

HEIGHTENED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARE OF CHILD

- Inability to trust or rely on abuser to provide care
- Decoding signals from child about child's needs
- Hiding attempts to meet child's needs in face of harm
- Teaching child that violence is unacceptable
- Supporting the everyday needs of child

LOSS OF CONTROL OVER OWN PARENTING

- Navigating around abuser's control
- Being subject to scrutiny by courts/services
- Securing access to resources or support
- Managing safety in the midst of chaos

IMPACT OF COERCIVE CONTROL ON CHILD (Chart 3 of 3)

PARENTING BY COERCIVE CONTROLLING ABUSERS
(Chart ... of ...)

| PARENTING CONTINUUM | |
|--|---|
| Physical Safety | Physical or Sexual Abuse or Neglect |
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| Economic Support | Economic Abuse |
| Protecting Child from Conflict and Abuse | Using Child as a Tool of Abuse |
| Accepting Responsibility for Impact of Abuse | Denying Responsibility for Impact of Abuse |
| Responding to Child's Separate Needs | Ignoring Child's Separate Needs |
| Supporting Other's Parenting and Relationships | Undermining Other's Parenting and Relationships |
| Respecting Other's Parent's Autonomy | Belittling/Blame/Coercion |

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- Fear and/or Trauma
- Behavior Problems
- Emotional Problems
- Cognitive Problems
- Memory Problems
- Relationship Problems
- Trust Problems
- No Obvious Problems